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Reserve

School Breakfast Program

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE/ WASHINGTON, D.C.
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Children who go to school hungry find it hard to learn. The School Breakfast Program helps give all children in schools and residential child care institutions a healthy sendoff for the day's activities. Children from low-income families can receive breakfasts free or at a reduced price of no more than ten cents. The U.S. Department of Agriculture helps schools and institutions provide breakfasts by offering cash and food assistance.

WHAT SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Any public or nonprofit private elementary, junior high, or high school is eligible. Also eligible are public or private nonprofit licensed residential child care institutions such as orphanages, homes for retarded children, and temporary shelters for runaway children.

Schools and institutions wishing to join the program must agree to serve breakfasts that meet Federal nutrition standards and to provide free and reduced price breakfasts to children who cannot pay the full price.

HOW DO SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS JOIN THE PROGRAM?

Interested schools and institutions may apply directly to the agency administering the program in individual States. To obtain the name of the appropriate agency in your State, write to the School Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

WHICH CHILDREN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE BREAKFASTS?

By law, any child from a family meeting local criteria for eligibility—based on family size and income—may receive a free or reduced price breakfast if his school participates in the program.

Each year participating schools and institutions send parents and the news media breakfast program information. It explains how families can apply for free and reduced price breakfasts. Teachers, school principals, or institution officials can provide further information.

CAN ALL CHILDREN GET BREAKFAST THROUGH THEIR SCHOOL'S OR INSTITUTION'S SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM?

Yes. Schools and institutions in the program must offer breakfast to every child. In addition, schools cannot make a child sit alone, eat a different meal, be served from a different line, or at a different time because of race, color, national origin, or inability to pay. If a child is treated unfairly in the School Breakfast Program, his parents should send a detailed letter to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM?

The School Breakfast Program began as a pilot program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. The program was aimed at schools serving a large number of needy children and schools serving children who travel long distances daily to get there. Since 1966, legislation has been enacted which makes the School Breakfast Program available to all schools. In October of 1975, Public Law 94-105 made the School Breakfast Program permanent.

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Child Nutrition Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are available to all children regardless of race, sex, creed, color, or national origin.
